

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /092 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8154

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG EIND ETRD

SUBJECT: RAS SUDR OIL FIELDS

REF CAIRO 10755

1. MOBIL EXPLORATION WITHDREW ALL ITS PERSONNEL FROM RAS SUDR OIL FIELDS IN SINAI ON NOV 17, WHEN EGYPTIANS TOOK OVER. USING DOCUMENT BASED ON WHAT THEY HAD RECEIVED FROM ISRAELIS, MOBIL REPS TURNED OVER EVERYTHING IN AREA TO EGYPTIANS, AND CONSIDER THAT PHASE OF ITS OPERATIONS DEFINITELY CONCLUDED.

2. COMPANY ADVISES THAT STATUS AND FUTURE OF FIELD, OR AT LEAST MOBIL'S 50 PERCENT PARTICIPATION IN IT, ARE NOT YET FIRM. RAS SUDR PRODUCES ONLY 2,500 B/D OF RATHER HEAVY OIL, ABOUT 22 DEGREES. SMALL QUANTITY AND LOW SPECIFIC GRAVITY RESULT IN PRODUCT WITH LIMITED COMMERCIAL PROSPECTS OUTSIDE EGYPT, AND POSE PROBLEMS FOR DOMESTIC REFINERIES.

3. AT PRESENT, EGYPTIANS ARE RUNNING BATCH TESTS AT SUEZ REFINERY, MOBIL SAYS, TESTING YIELD UNDER VARIOUS CONDITIONS INCLUDING MIXING RAS SUDR AND MORGAN CRUDE, TO DETERMINE

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WHAT CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED IN TERMS OF OUTPUT. MOBIL FEARS IT WILL PROBABLY BE MORE ALONG LINES OF BUNKER C AND HEATING

OIL, WHICH EGYPT DOES NOT NEED, RATHER THAN KEROSENE AND SIMILAR PRODUCTS, WHICH SHE DOES.

4. ADDITIONAL PROBLEM IS REHABILITATION OF FIELD ITSELF. EGYPTIANS, WHO OPERATE FIELD AND BILL MOBIL FOR 50 PERCENT OF COSTS, HAD 80 FAMILIES RESIDENT AT RAS SUDR PRIOR TO 1967 AND WISH TO RETURN TO THAT ARRANGEMENT. MOBIL, NOTING THAT ISRAELIS RAN FIELD FOR OVER SEVEN YEARS WITH LESS THAN 10 PEOPLE, IS RELUCTANT TO COMMIT RESOURCES TO RECONSTRUCTION OF SMALL CITY INTENDED TO SUPPORT OIL FIELD WHOSE VIABILITY IS STILL QUESTIONABLE. COMPANY IS AWAITING DETAILED STUDY OF PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION OF OIL, AS WELL AS COST ESTIMATES FOR RECONSTRUCTION BEFORE DECIDING WHAT TO DO.

5. COMMENT: MOBIL IS CLEARLY NOT OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC WITH SHORT-TERM SITUATION OF RAS SUDR, BUT WHAT IF ANYTHING CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT NOT YET CLEAR.  
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## Message Attributes

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